

MARVEL[®]
COMICS



ALL NEW
X-MEN[®]
LIMITED
SERIES

FEB '97 Z

DOMINO

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

TM



THE LADY'S
NAME IS--
DEATHSTRIKE!

TM

PERRIN +
CANDELARIO 96

THE SNARLING WOMAN
WITH THE CLAWS IS
LADY DEATHSTRIKE.

SHE IS A
CYBORG...

... A HUMAN BEING
WHOSE FLESH HAS
BEEN AUGMENTED
BY THE GRAFTING
OF ARTIFICIAL
LIMBS AND
CYBERNETIC
INTELLIGENCE.

SUCH A PROCEDURE
IS SO GRUELING AN
ORDEAL TO ENDURE,
MOST DON'T SURVIVE
THE TRANSFORMATION.

THE FEW RESILIENT ONES
WHO DO, HOWEVER, FIND
THEMSELVES
METAMORPHOSED LIKE
UNTO GODS AMONG MEN.

PRICK THEM
AND THEY DO
NOT BLEED.

BEAT THEM DOWN,
AND THEY SIMPLY
RISE UP AGAIN.
IN SHORT --

-- THEY CANNOT
BE STOPPED.

THEY ARE
RELENTLESS...

... RUTHLESS...

... AND WHEN IT
COMES TO THIS
PARTICULAR
CYBORG...



"...DEATH Be A LADY TONIGHT!"

A STAN LEE
Presentation

YOUR
BELOVED
Dr. THURMAN
IS NO LONGER
WITH US,
MUTANT.
AND IN A
MOMENT --
--NEITHER
SHALL YOU!

BIG
TALK FROM A
WOMAN WHO LOOKS
LIKE DEATH
WARMED OVER,
LADY!

I GUESS
A GOOD HARD
WHACK WITH THE
UGLY STICK'LL
DO THAT TO
A PERSON,
HUH?

THIS... IS
DOMINO.

SHE IS A
MUTANT...

ZAK

BUT
DIDJA REALLY
HAVE TO GO
BACK FOR
SECONDS?

...A PERSON BORN WITH AN
EXTRA CHROMOSOME -- THE
X-FACTOR GENE -- THAT
HAS GRANTED HER POWERS
AND ABILITIES BEYOND THOSE
OF THE AVERAGE HUMAN.

IN THE CASE OF
X-FORCE'S DEPUTY
LEADER, THAT
TRANSLATES INTO AN
INORDINATE AMOUNT
OF GOOD LUCK.

BUT WHEN SHE LEARNED THAT
A CERTAIN VERY SPECIAL MAN
SHE HADN'T SEEN IN TOO
MANY YEARS --

-- HER FORMER LOVER,
Dr. MILO THURMAN --

-- WAS THE TARGET OF
AN ASSASSINATION
ATTEMPT, SHE SADLY
DISCOVERED...

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FROM ALPHA FLIGHT'S
PUCK IN ISSUE 1 -- U MARK

... EVEN GOOD
LUCK CAN RUN
BAD.

KEEP
IT UP,
GIRL --

-- MAYBE
THE SNAPPY
PATTER'LL TAKE
YOUR MIND OFF
MILO.

-- IF THIS
"GHOST IN THE
SHELL" WANNABE
HARMED A SINGLE
HAIR ON HIS NAPPY,
DREADLOCKED
HEAD --

-- I'LL
SCRAP HER
@\$# FOR SPARE
PARTS!

YOU
MOVE AND
FIGHT WELL --
FOR A
GAIJIN. ☹

NOT.

SHAZAK

YEAARCH!

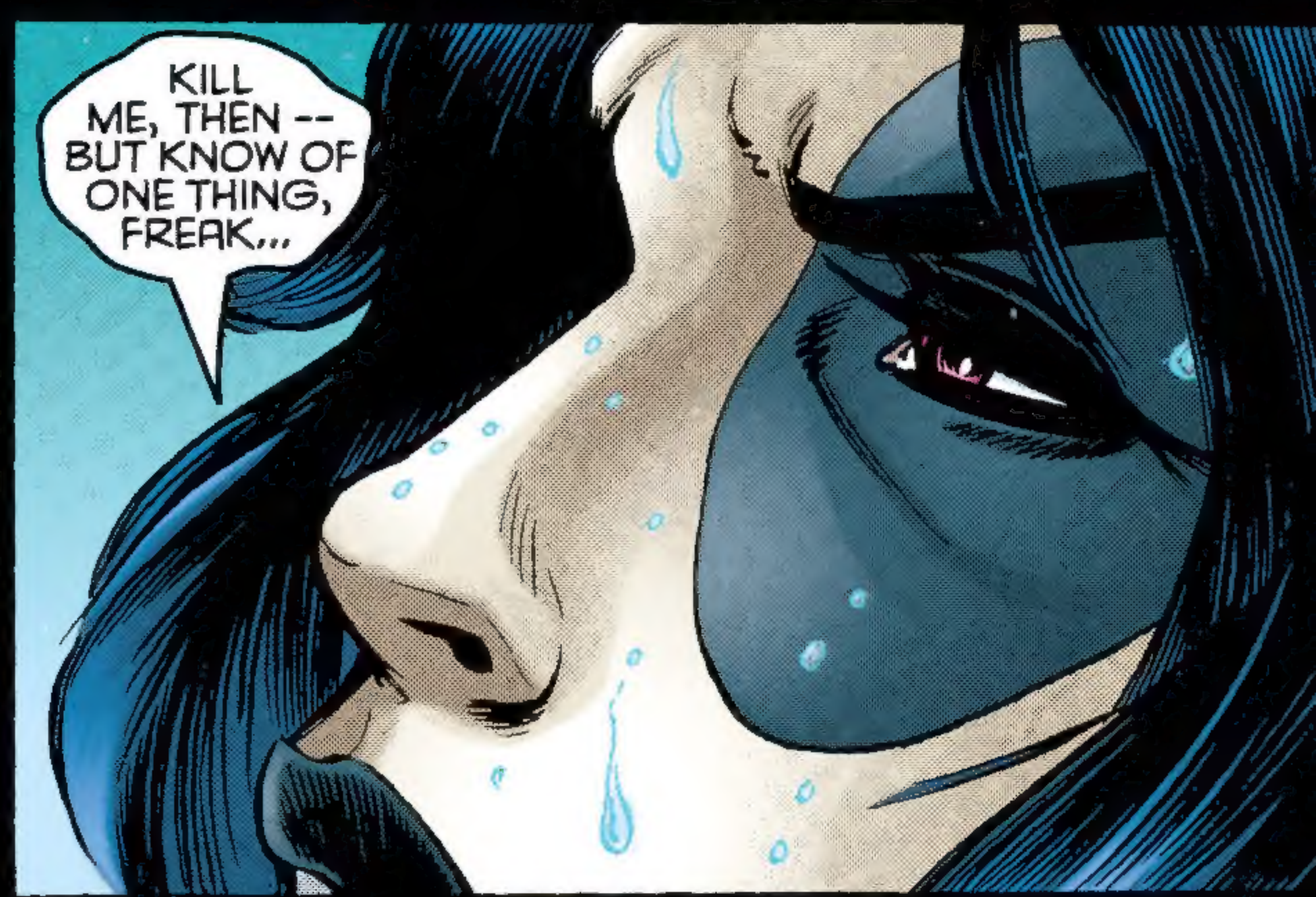
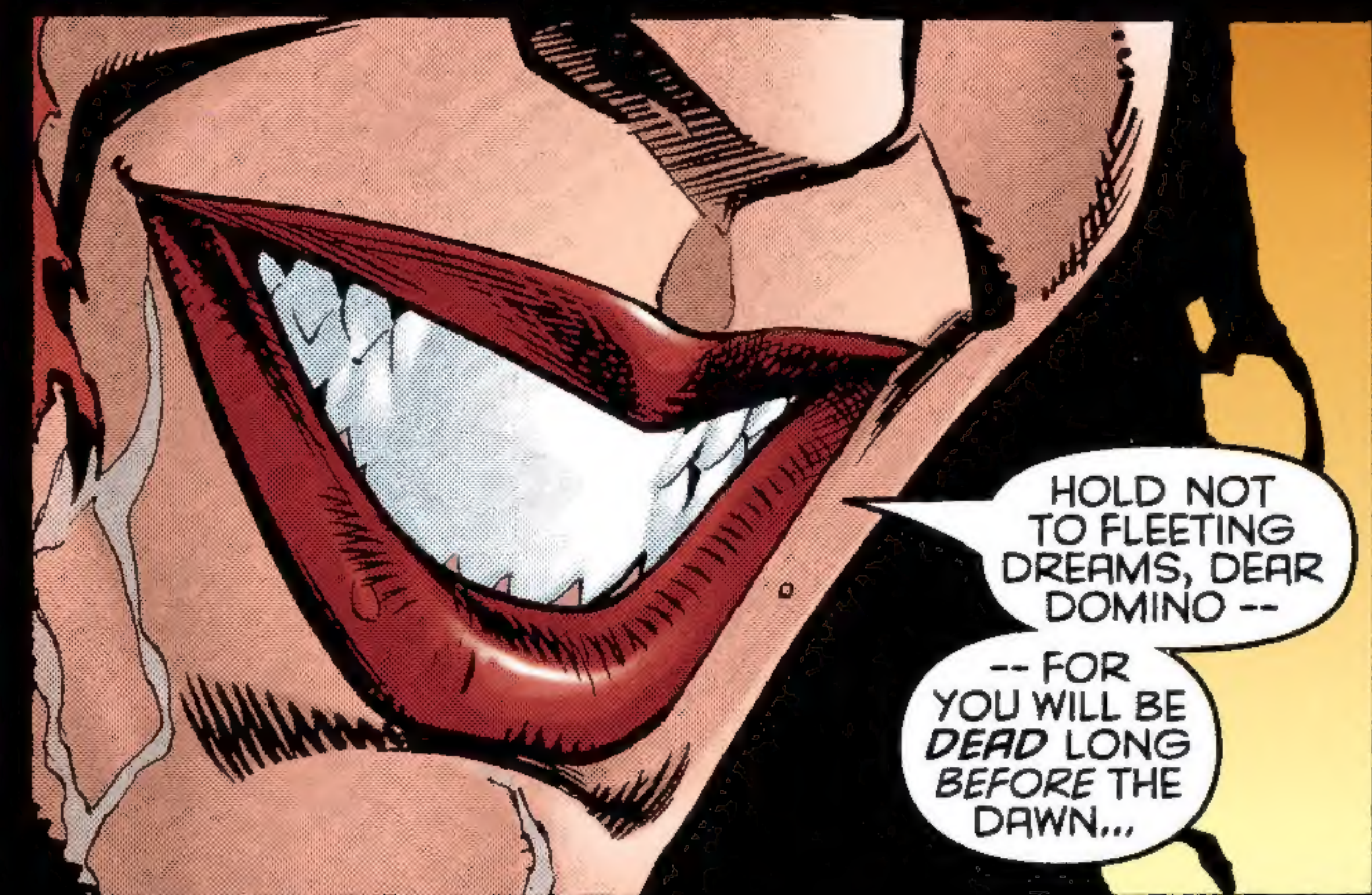
I SWEAR,
THOUGH --

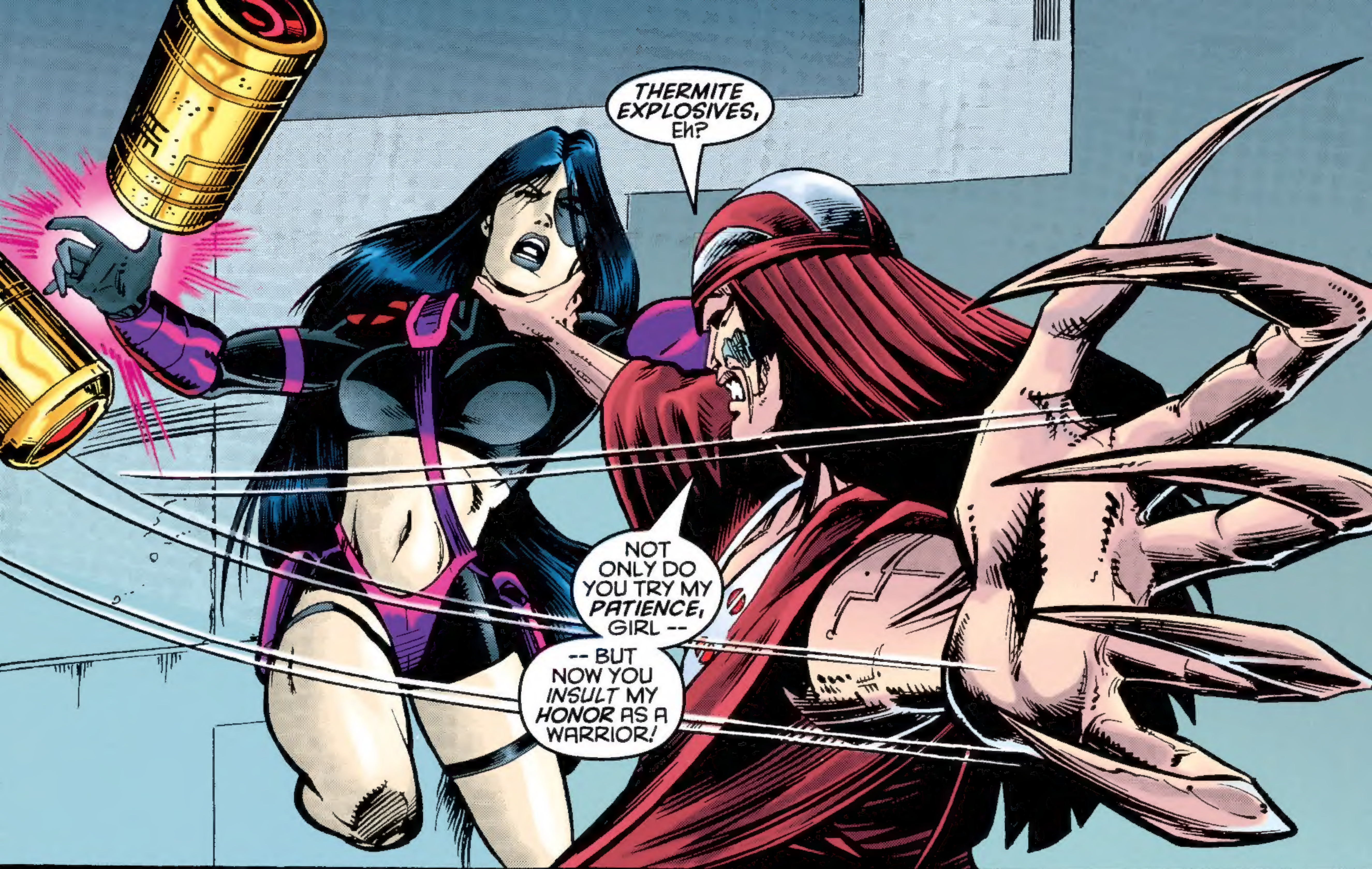
BUT
AS IS PLAIN
TO SEE, YOU --
AND YOUR
"TOYS" --

-- CAN
DO ME NO
SERIOUS
DAMAGE.

MY
WOUNDS
ALREADY
BEGIN TO
KNIT!

I HAVE ALREADY
BEEN MADE
INDESTRUCTIBLE --

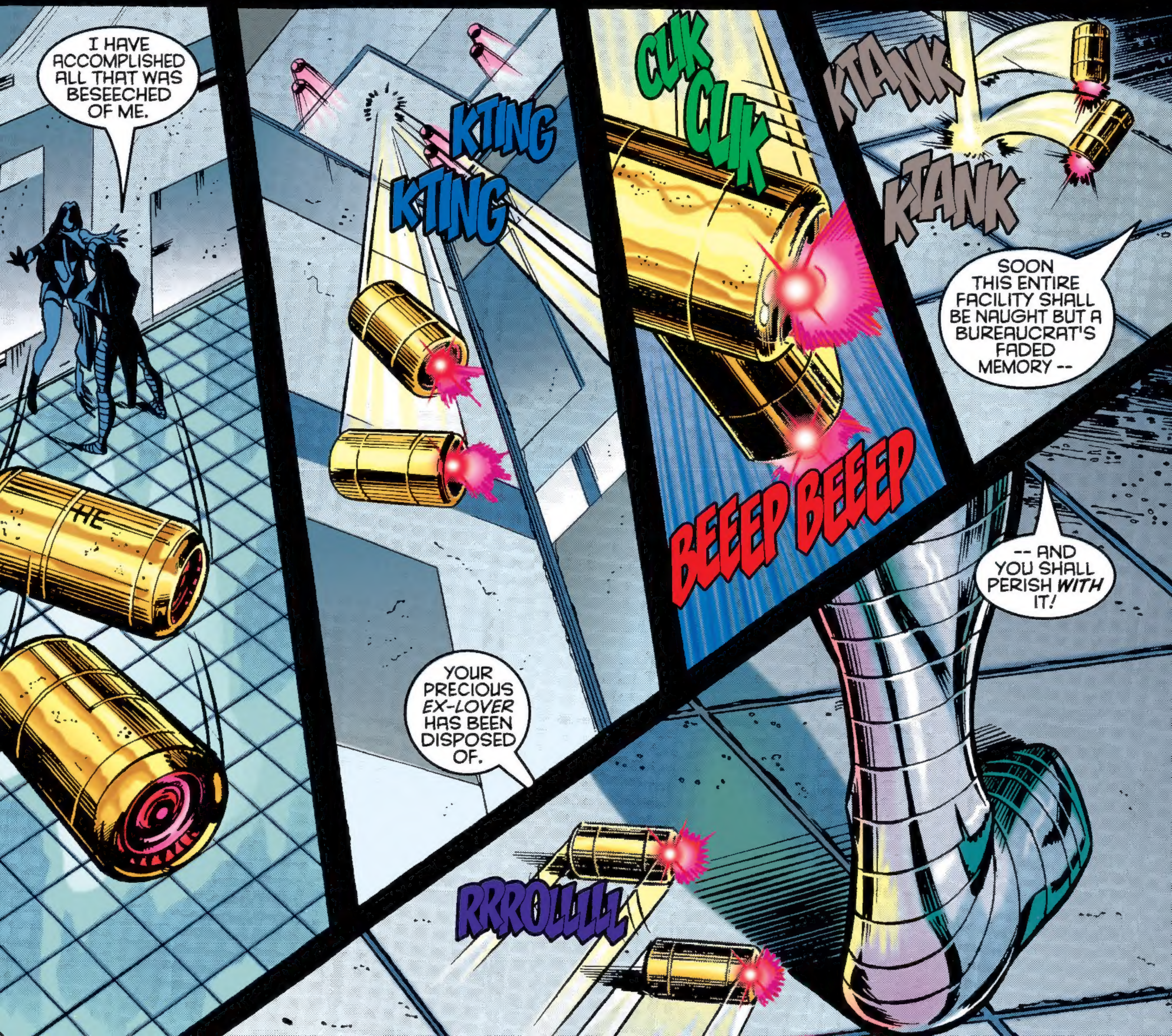




THERMITE
EXPLOSIVES,
EH?

NOT
ONLY DO
YOU TRY MY
PATIENCE,
GIRL --

-- BUT
NOW YOU
INSULT MY
HONOR AS A
WARRIOR!



I HAVE
ACCOMPLISHED
ALL THAT WAS
BESECHED
OF ME.

KTING
KTING

CLIK
CLIK

KTANK
KANK

SOON
THIS ENTIRE
FACILITY SHALL
BE NAUGHT BUT A
BUREAUCRAT'S
FADED
MEMORY --

YOUR
PRECIOUS
EX-LOVER
HAS BEEN
DISPOSED
OF.

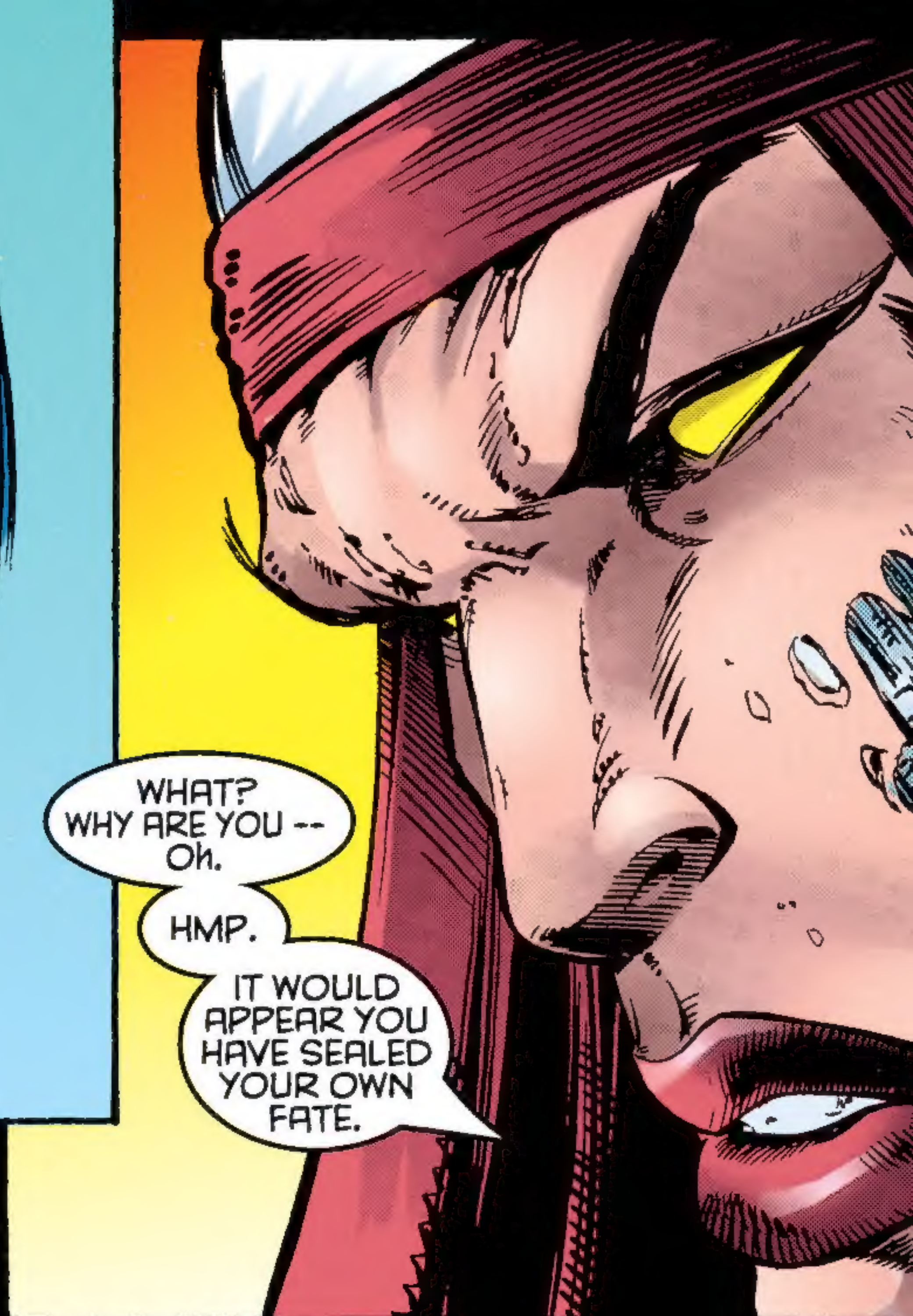
BEEP BEEP

-- AND
YOU SHALL
PERISH WITH
IT!

RRROLL



Heh.
RIGHT.
OBOY.



WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU --
Oh.
HMP.
IT WOULD
APPEAR YOU
HAVE SEALED
YOUR OWN
FATE.



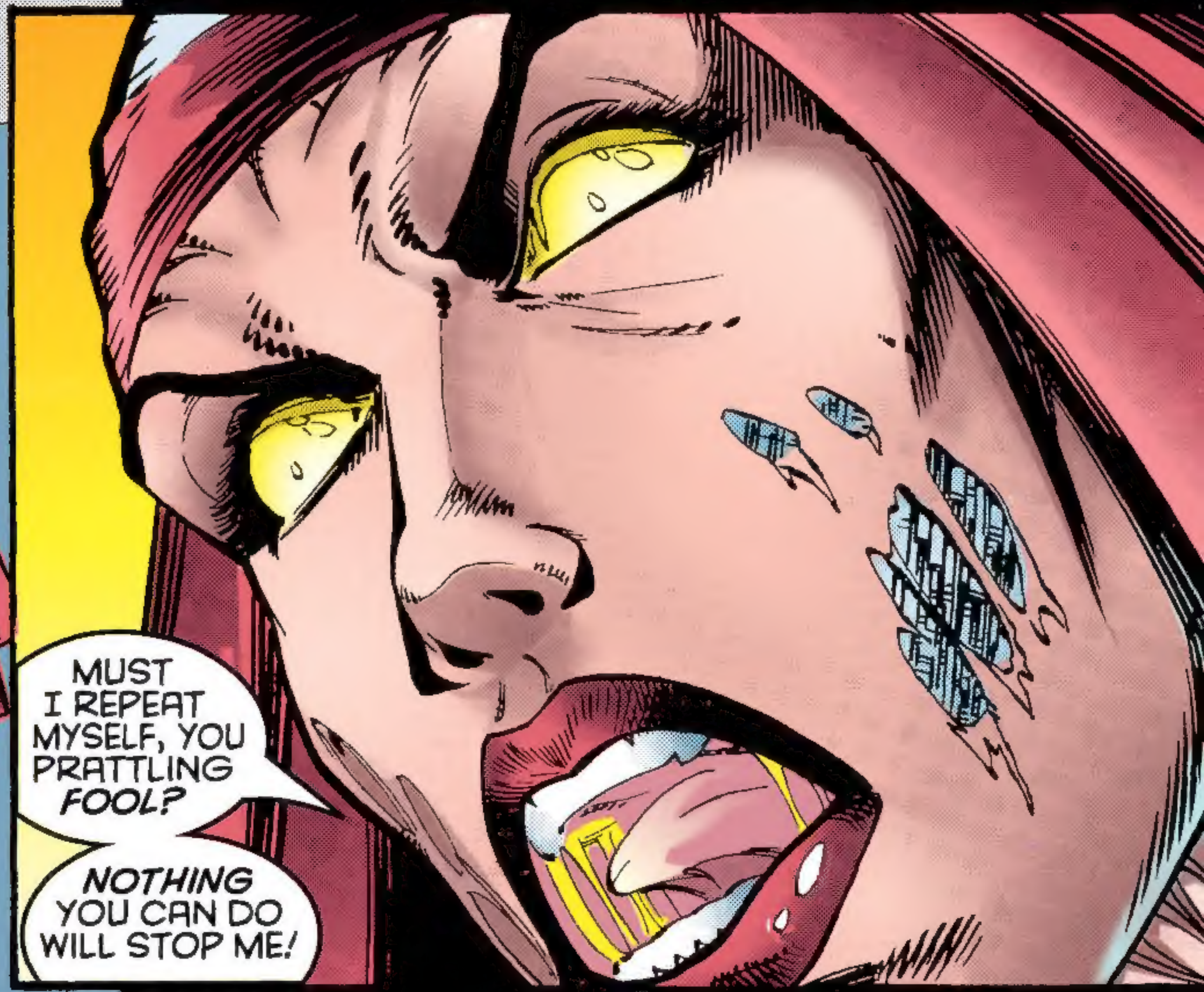
SURE
LOOKS LIKE
IT, HUH?

NOW, YOU
DID SAY YOU'RE
"INDESTRUCTIBLE",
RIGHT?

'CUZ I'D
SURE HATE TO
FIND OUT THAT YOU
WEREN'T WHEN THOSE
EXPLOSIVES GO
"KABLOOEY!"

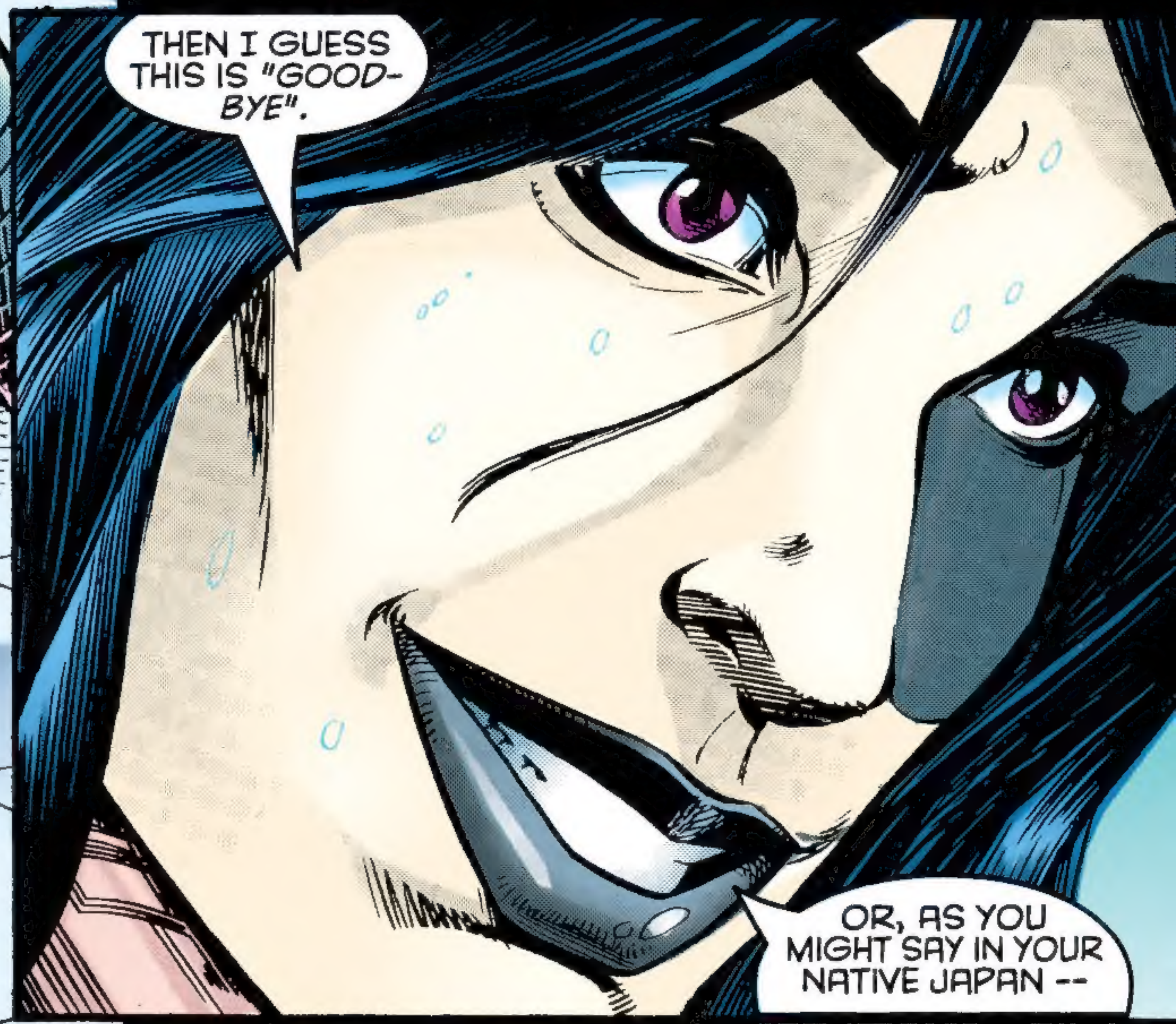
I MEAN,
THERE WOULD BE
TECHNO-GUTS
EVERYWHERE!

I'M TALKIN'
TOTAL MAJOR
GROSS-OUT
FACTOR --



MUST
I REPEAT
MYSELF, YOU
PRATTING
FOOL?

NOTHING
YOU CAN DO
WILL STOP ME!



THEN I GUESS
THIS IS "GOOD-
BYE".

OR, AS YOU
MIGHT SAY IN YOUR
NATIVE JAPAN --



BEATRICE --
YOU ARE ONE
L-U-C-K-Y
GAL.

IF
CIRCUMSTANCES
DIDN'T HAVE SUCH A
NASTY HABIT OF FALLING
INTO PLACE FOR
YOU --

-- YOUR
HEAD WOULD
BE DECORATING
LADY D'S CLAWS
BY NOW.

NOW
THAT WOULD
HAVE BEEN A
BUZZKILL.

WELL
WELL WELL --
WHATTAYA
KNOW?



IT'S BEEN
ALMOST TEN
YEARS --

-- AND
HE'S STILL
READING
THIS?



FUNNY --

-- I
THOUGHT I
WAS THE ONE WHO
HAD TROUBLE
MOVING
ON...



SURE, BEING DOWN IN THESE TUNNELS AGAIN IS PLENTY WEIRD --

-- NOT BECAUSE DEATHSTRIKE JUST TURNED IT INTO A **CHARNEL PIT** --

-- BUT BECAUSE THIS WAS THE PLACE WHERE I FIRST FELL IN LOVE...

... BUT THIS IS A DIFFERENT TIME AND I'M A DIFFERENT PERSON NOW.



"AREN'T I?"

PARDON ME! 'SCUSE ME! GANGWAY! SECURITY OFFICER COMIN' THROUGH!

WHAT'S GOING ON? HAS THERE BEEN A BREACH?

BACK TO THE LAB, BOYS -- NOTHING TO SEE HERE!

"MY C.O. HAD ASSIGNED ME TO A SCUT JOB THAT NONE OF THE OTHER SECURITY OFFICERS WANTED.



"IT WAS MY DUTY TO GUARD SOME EGGHEAD SO PROFICIENT AT ANALYZING **HISTORICAL TRENDS** OF THE PAST --

"-- HE COULD MAKE NEARLY 100% ACCURATE PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE FUTURE.

"THIS GIFT NOT ONLY MADE HIM EXTREMELY **VALUABLE** TO THE GOVERNMENT --



"-- BUT IT ALSO MADE HIM VERY **DANGEROUS** TO BE AROUND..."

LORD HELP THAT DWEBB THURMAN IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM --

CHIK CHIK

--OR ELSE SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO ENTER A WORLD OF **SERIOUS HURT.**

OKAY -- ON THREE.

ONE... TWO...

... THREE!

"MILO WAS NO CLAIRVOYANT ESPER, AND HE SURE AS HECK WASN'T A MUTANT --

"AND HE KNEW IT, TOO.

"MAYBE THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I WAS SO ATTRACTED TO HIM.

"-- HE WAS JUST SMART. PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

"SOMETIMES..."

I DID THE "MENTAL MATH" ON THIS ONE, BEATRICE -- SO CHECK IT OUT...

WHAT'CHA THINK OF THAT -- HEY!

I THINK --

-- I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE PREDICTING THE DIRECTION MY LIFE MIGHT SOMEDAY TAKE!

SOMEDAY, YOU'RE GONNA BE ON A SHADOW OP IN RIO DE JANEIRO DURING CARNAVAL.

THEN YOU'RE GONNA FALL MADLY IN LOVE OVER A BOTTLE OF DOM PERIGNON --

-- WITH A DARK, HANDSOME, EXPATRIATED GENIUS.

AND I KNOW --

-- THAT I HATE THE NAME "BEATRICE"!



SO, IF
YOU EVER
WANNA SEE THE
OUTSIDE OF THIS
FACILITY --

-- FROM
ABOVE
GROUND
LEVEL --

-- YOU'LL
STOP
CALLING ME
THAT!



WHATEVER
YOU SAY, MY
LOVELY LITTLE
"DOMINO"...



LISTEN
UP AND
LISTEN GOOD,
FUTURE
BOY.

SOPHOMORIC
PET NAMES MAY
HAVE WON THE **PROM**
QUEEN AND THE
CAPTAIN OF THE
CHEERLEADING
SQUAD
OVER --

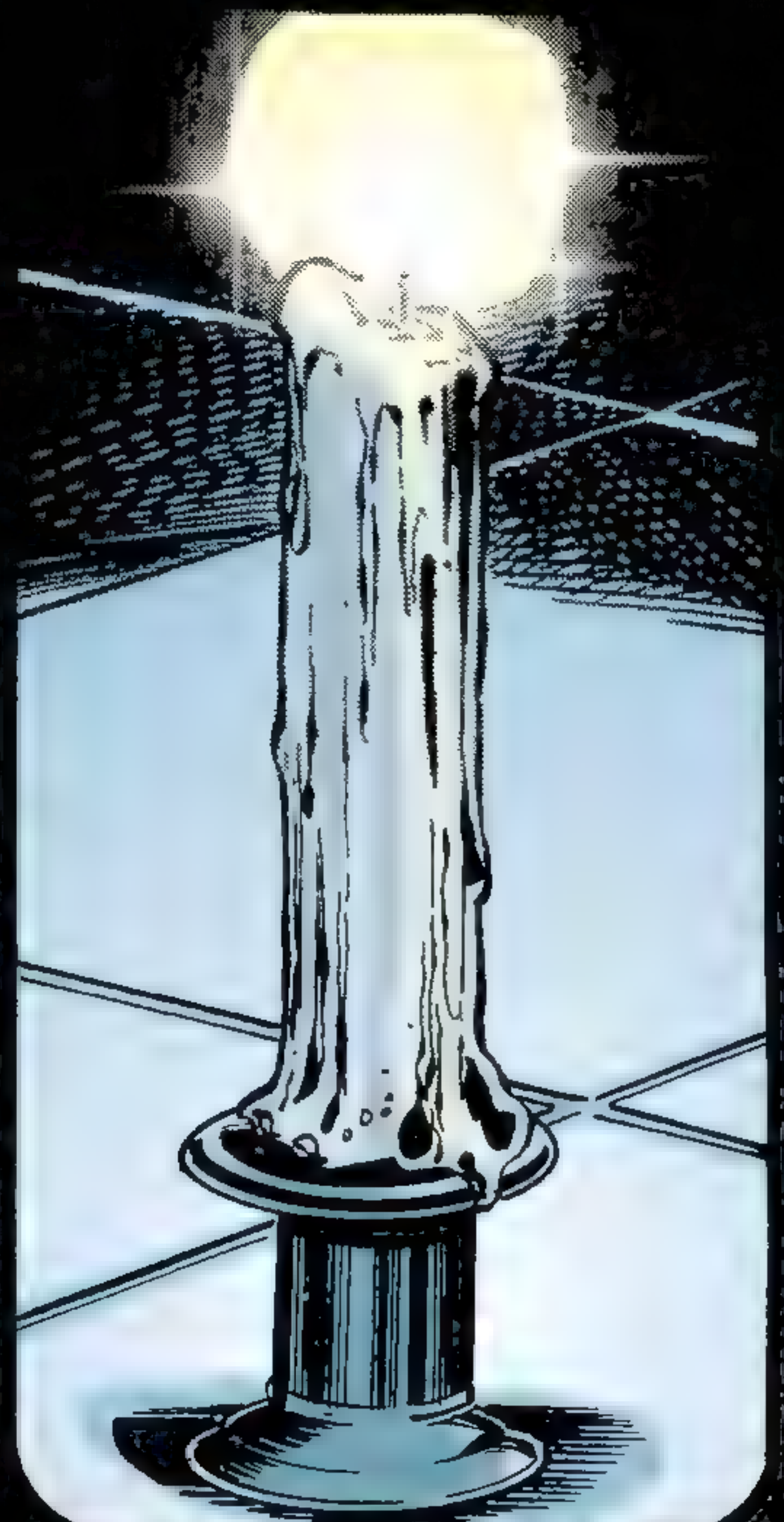
-- BUT
YOU'RE
GONNA HAVE
TO TRY A LOT
HARDER TO WIN
THIS GIRL'S
HEART.



I
KNOW.
DOM
PERIGNON?



...
SOMETHING
TELLS ME I'M
GONNA REGRET
THIS...



"TWO BOTTLES
OF CHAMPAGNE
LATER..."

TELL
ME AGAIN
ABOUT HOW
YOU WOUND
UP HERE.

CRACKS
ME UP HOW
BAD YOUR
LUCK IS!

HEY --
YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
GOT STUCK ON
"BABY-SITTING
DUTY"!

**AAANY-
WAY... I
STARTED
TRACKING
SPORTS
STATS.**

BASEBALL...
FOOTBALL...
BASKETBALL...
YOU NAME IT, I KNEW
IT *BEFORE* IT EVER
HAPPENED!

MADE
LOTS OF "FRIENDS"
THAT WAY -- AND
THOSE "FRIENDS" MADE
LOTS OF CASH FROM MY
"PREDICTIONS."

GOT TO
THE POINT
WHERE I WAS SO
COCKY -- I
THOUGHT THE **LAW**
COULDN'T
TOUCH ME.

BUT
WHEN I HACKED
INTO A TOP SECRET
GOVERNMENT DATABASE
AND GOT BUSTED
PREDICTING
**DECRYPTION CODE
SEQUENCES.... ?** LE

ODE WELL,
...? LET'S JUST
SAY I MADE
A WHOLE NEW
SET OF "FRIENDS"
IN VERY HIGH
PLACES...

BUT
WHAT
ABOUT YOU,
DOM?

**YOU, WHY
ALL THE
GUNS AND
GRENADES AND
GRATUITOUS
VIOLENCE? IF**

YOU
KEEP GUARDING
YOURSELF LIKE
THAT, YOU'RE
JUST GONNA
END UP
ALONE.

TRUST
ME, THURMAN --
YOU DON'T
WANNA KNOW
WHY.

"IT BROKE MY HEART NOT BEING ABLE TO TELL HIM THE TRUTH --"

--THAT
I WAS THE
ONE WHO DIDN'T
WANT *HIM* TO
KNOW.

YET, HERE
I AM -- ALL
THESE YEARS
LATER -- *STILL*
KEEPING PEOPLE
AT ARM'S
LENGTH.

JEEZ -- AM I THAT
PREDICTABLE..?

MEANWHILE, DEEP WITHIN THE "GREAT WHITE NORTH" THAT IS THE CANADIAN YUKON...

... IN A BUNKER THAT WAS ONCE PART OF THE TOP SECRET WEAPON X PROGRAM...

PSIONIC ABSORPTION UNITS ON-LINE... ELECTROLYTE FLUIDS FLOWING STEADY.

THE BEING OPERATING THE COMPUTER CONSOLE WAS ONCE A MAN LIKE ANY OTHER.

THAT IS, UNTIL HE UNDERWENT THE CYBERNETIC PROCEDURE THAT TURNED HIM INTO THE LIVING ENGINE OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION KNOWN ONLY AS...

... SKULLBUSTER!

EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE IN WORKING ORDER, BOSS --

JUST CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND, AND REMEMBER...

-- BUT WHAT IF THE MEAT CAN'T HACK THE PROCESS?

I MEAN, THIS GUY LOOKS A LITTLE DELICATE...

IF I WANTED YOUR OPINION, SKULLBUSTER -- I WOULD GIVE IT TO YOU.

... IF HE DIES --

-- YOU DIE.

GOTCHA, BOSS. ENGAGING PRIMARY PSI-TRANSFER --

"-- NOW!"

GAAAAAH!

AT SKULLBUSTER'S DIGITAL
COMMAND, WAVE UPON WAVE
OF ELECTRO-CHEMICAL ENERGY
COURSES THROUGH MILO
THURMAN'S BROKEN BODY...

... BRINGING HIM TO
BUT THE FIRST OF
MANY LEVELS OF
EXCRUCIATING PAIN
AWAITING HIM WITHIN
THE COMING HOURS.

EXCELLENT!

HE HAS
SURVIVED THE
INITIAL CYBERNETIC
CONNECTION.

BEGIN THE
SECOND PHASE
IMMEDIATELY!

BUT AS THE INTENSITY
BUILDS, AND THE AGONY
FINDS PURCHASE IN EVERY
FIBER OF HIS BEING...

... A SINGLE THOUGHT
GIVES THE TORTURED
GENIUS A REASON TO
HOLD ON FOR DEAR LIFE.

BEATRICE...

"BEATRICE"?
THE GUY'S ABOUT TO
HAVE HIS MIND DOWN-
LOADED SO THAT HE CAN
BECOME A FULL-ON
CYBORG --

-- AND
ALL HE CAN THINK
ABOUT IS SOME CHICK
WITH A DORKY
NAME?

DON'T BE
SO SURPRISED,
SKULLBUSTER.

THE
FIRST WORD
OUT OF YOUR
MISERABLE MOUTH
AS I "RESURRECTED"
YOUR CYBERNETIC
MAINFRAME
WAS...

... "MOTHER."

BESIDES,
POOR MR. THURMAN
HERE HAS BEEN A
POLITICAL PRISONER OF
HIS OWN GOVERNMENT
FOR SO LONG --

-- IT IS
ONLY LOGICAL
THAT HE CLING TO
SOME PLEASANT
MEMORY.

FORTUNATELY
FOR HIM, HIS INDENTURED
SERVITUDE TO THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT
ENDS THIS DAY...

... AND ONCE
THE PSIONIC TRANSFER
IS COMPLETE --

-- SO
DOES HIS
LIFE!

ACK IN THE UNITED STATES.

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THIS ALL THOSE YEARS AGO?

I COULD'VE BUSTED MILO OUT OF HERE AND RUN AWAY WITH HIM FOREVER!

INSTEAD, I PUT "THE MISSION" AHEAD OF MY OWN FEELINGS.

MAN, WAS I NAIVE...

TEK

4:00

FOUR MORE MINUTES, AND THIS PLACE IS HISTORY -- Huh?

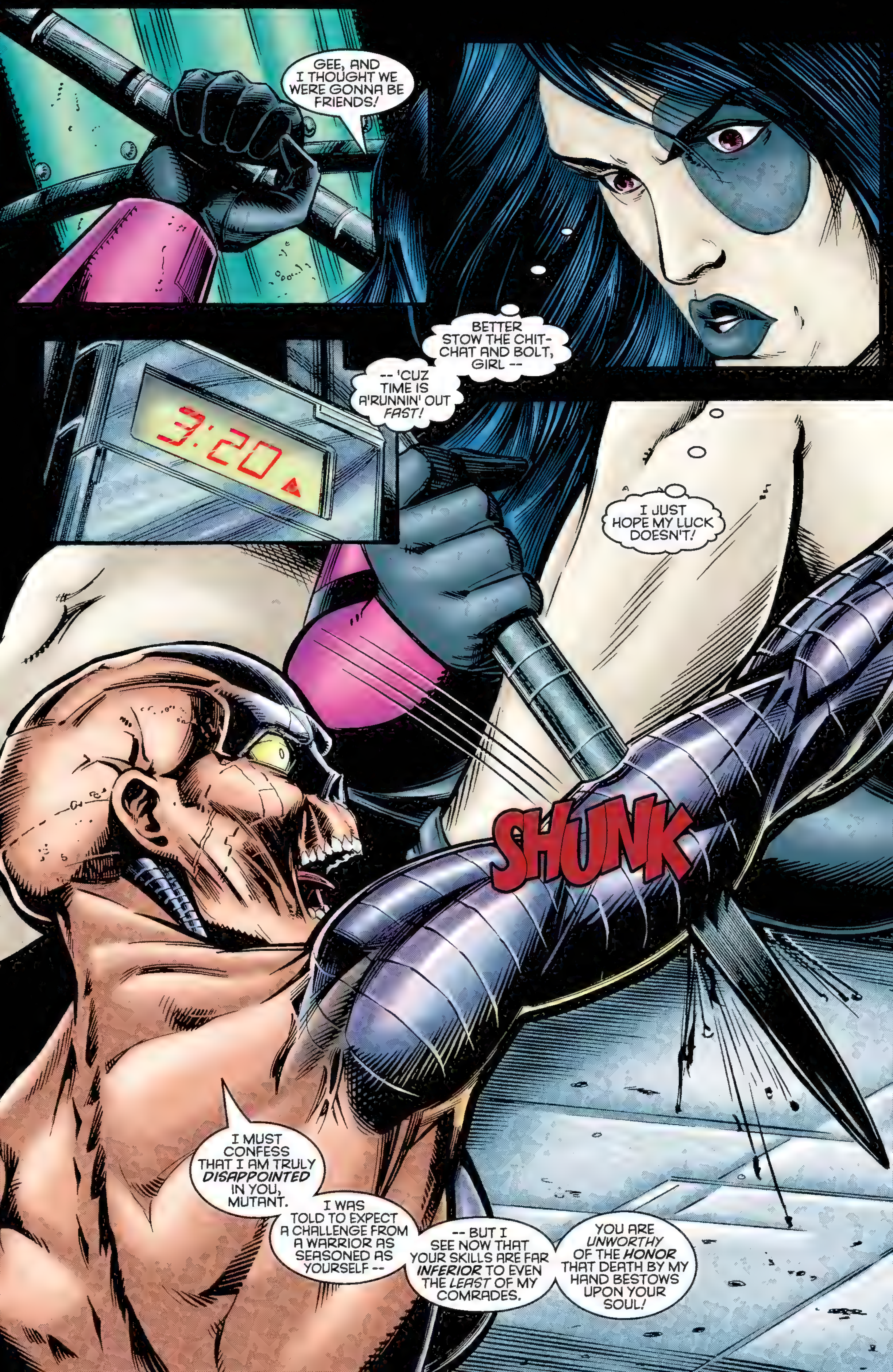
HOLY \$#@%#!

A SCORE OF THERMITE DETONATORS COULD NOT DESTROY ME --

-- LET ALONE A SINGLE GRENADE, MUTANT!

I AM A CREATION OF THE BEST IN BOTH THE SCIENCE OF MAN AND THE SORCERY OF MAGIC --

-- AND I SHALL YET BE YOUR DEATH!



GEE, AND
I THOUGHT WE
WERE GONNA BE
FRIENDS!

BETTER
STOW THE CHIT-
CHAT AND BOLT,
GIRL --

-- 'CUZ
TIME IS
A'RUNNIN' OUT
FAST!

I JUST
HOPE MY LUCK
DOESN'T!

SHUNK

I MUST
CONFESS
THAT I AM TRULY
DISAPPOINTED
IN YOU,
MUTANT.

I WAS
TOLD TO EXPECT
A CHALLENGE FROM
A WARRIOR AS
SEASONED AS
YOURSELF --

-- BUT I
SEE NOW THAT
YOUR SKILLS ARE FAR
INFERIOR TO EVEN
THE LEAST OF MY
COMRADES.

YOU ARE
UNWORTHY
OF THE HONOR
THAT DEATH BY MY
HAND BESTOWS
UPON YOUR
SOUL!



THEN WHY
DON'T WE SPARE
YOU THE *DISHONOR* OF
SOILING THAT PRECIOUS
REP OF YOURS
IN THE BAD GUY
COMMUNITY --

-- BY
TAKING OFF AND
NEVER CROSSING
PATHS EVER
AGAIN?

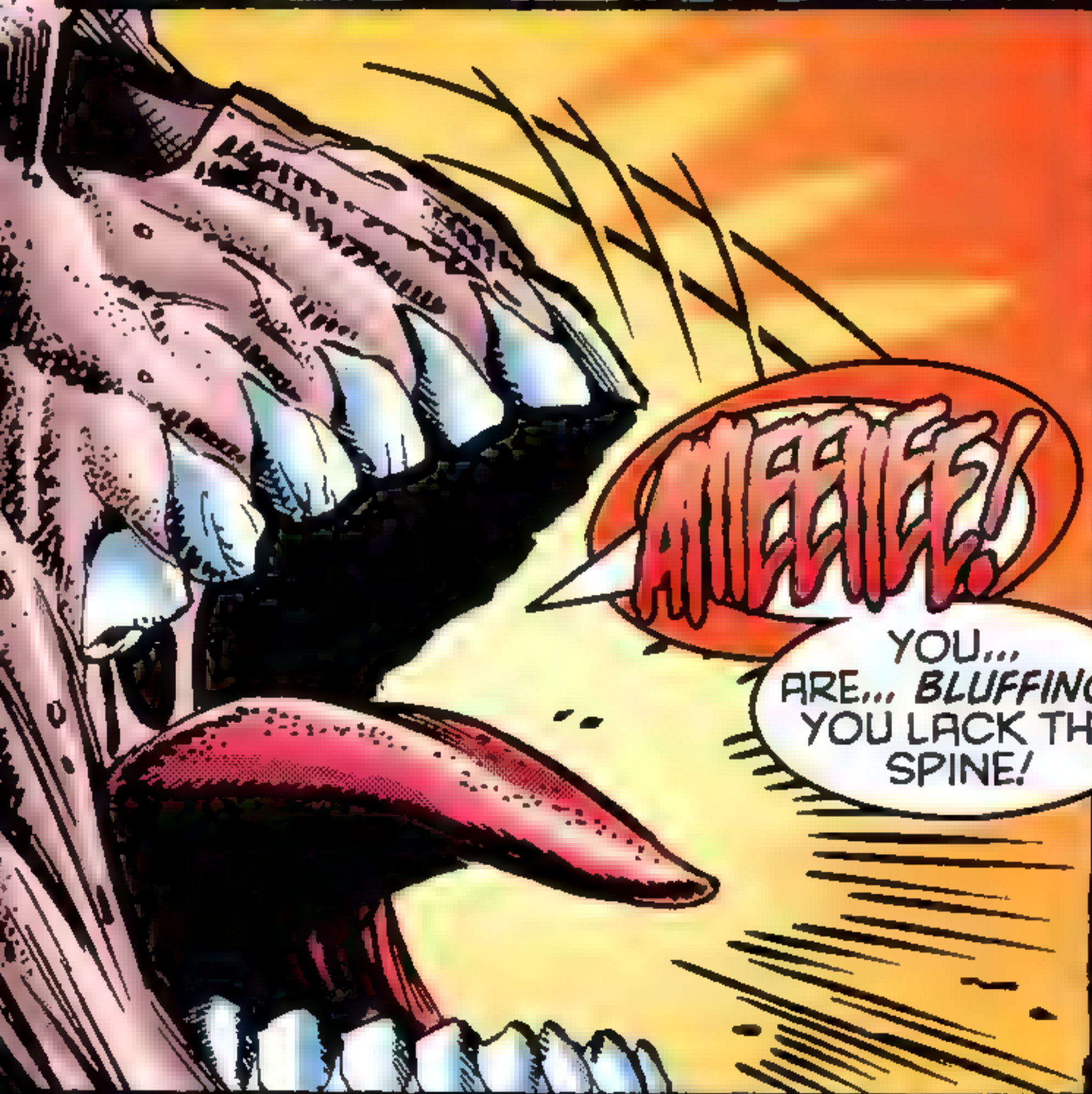


I
THINK YOU
CAN SEE THE *POINT*
IN THAT, CAN'T
YOU?

OTHERWISE,
YOU HAD BETTER
TELL ME WHERE
MILO IS --

-- OR
IT'S 120
SECONDS UNTIL
COMBUSTION
CITY!

SHASHUNK



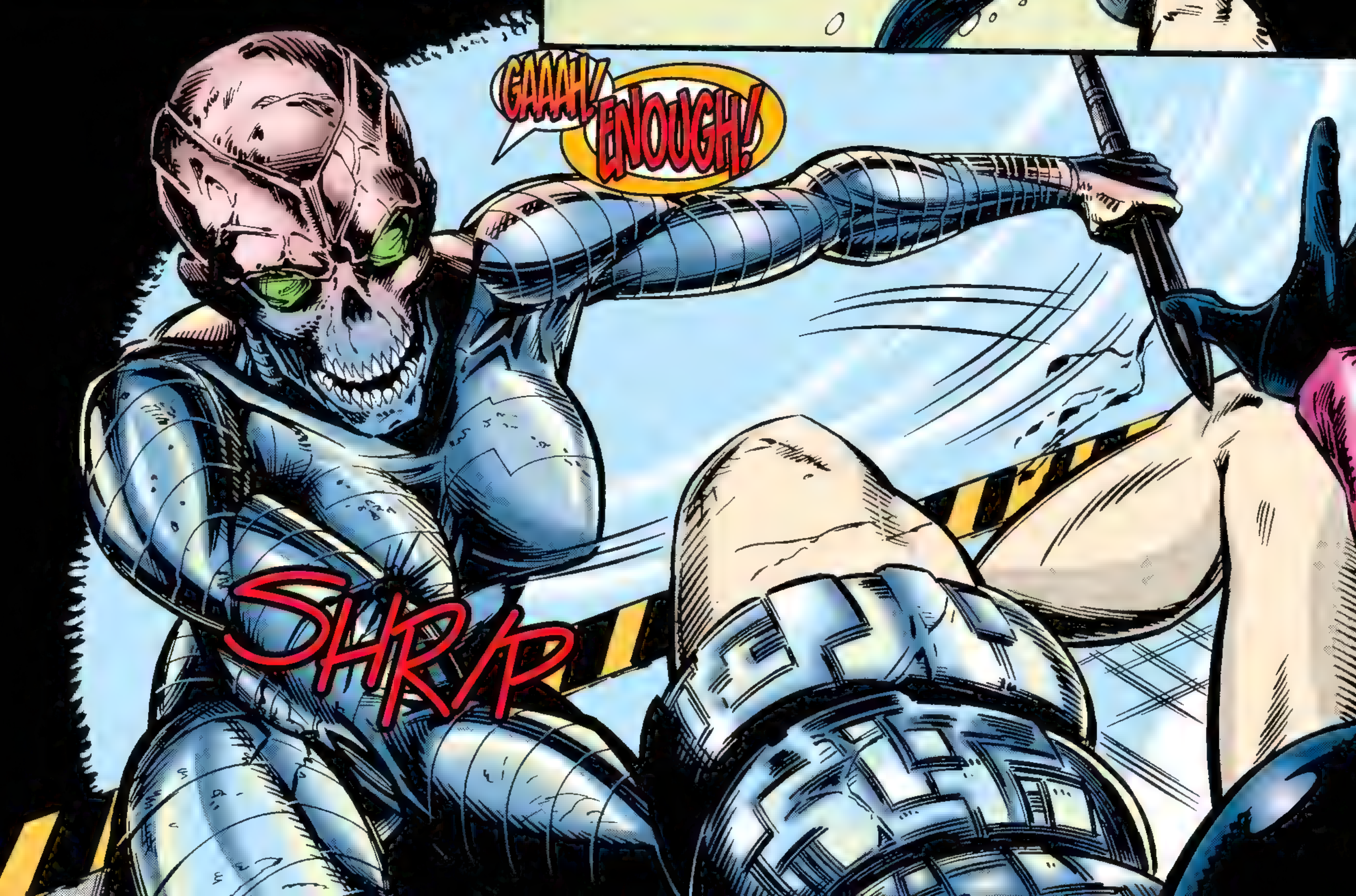
AMEEEEE!

YOU...
ARE... *BLUFFING!*
YOU LACK THE
SPINE!



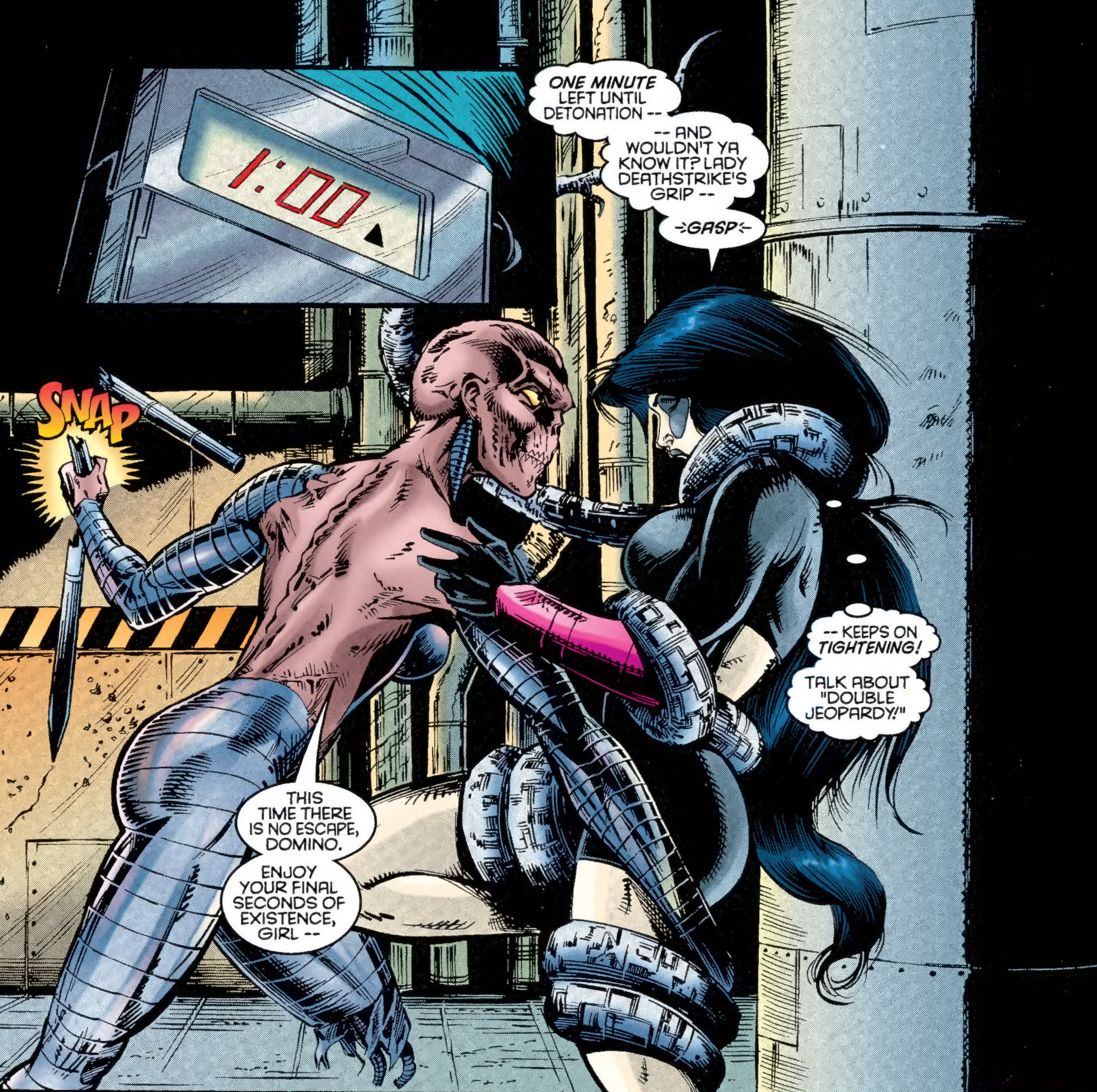
Oh,
DO I?

WANNA
TEST YOUR
LUCK AGAINST
MINE?



GAAAH!
ENOUGH!

SHRIP



ONE MINUTE
LEFT UNTIL
DETONATION --

-- AND
WOULDN'T YA
KNOW IT? LADY
DEATHSTRIKE'S
GRIP --

=GASP=

SNAP

THIS
TIME THERE
IS NO ESCAPE,
DOMINO.

ENJOY
YOUR FINAL
SECONDS OF
EXISTENCE,
GIRL --

-- KEEPS ON
TIGHTENING!

TALK ABOUT
"DOUBLE
JEOPARDY!"



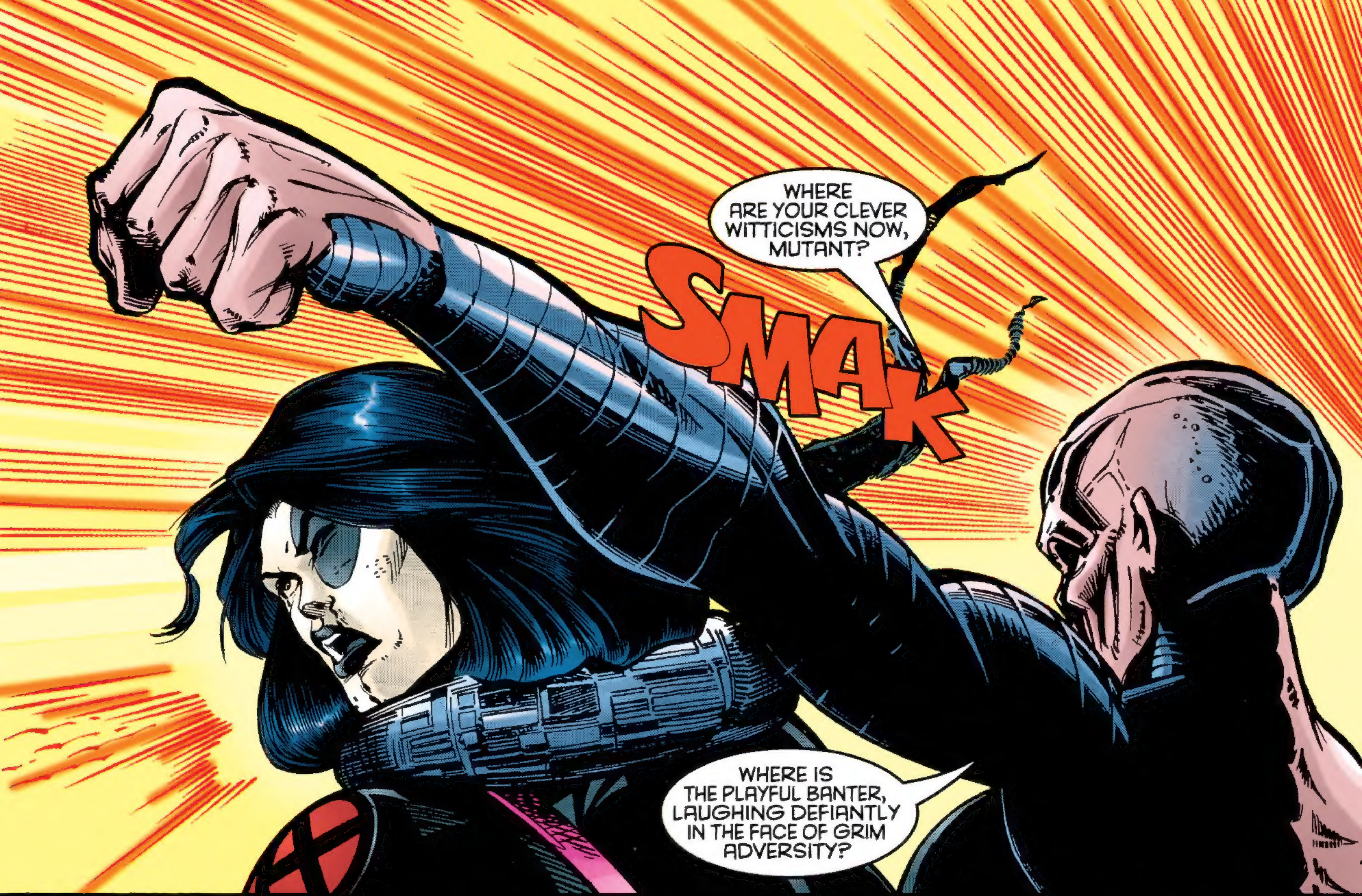
-- AND KNOW THAT
IN A MATTER OF
MOMENTS --

-- YOU AND
YOUR BELOVED
SHALL AT LEAST BE
REUNITED --



-- IN
DEATH!

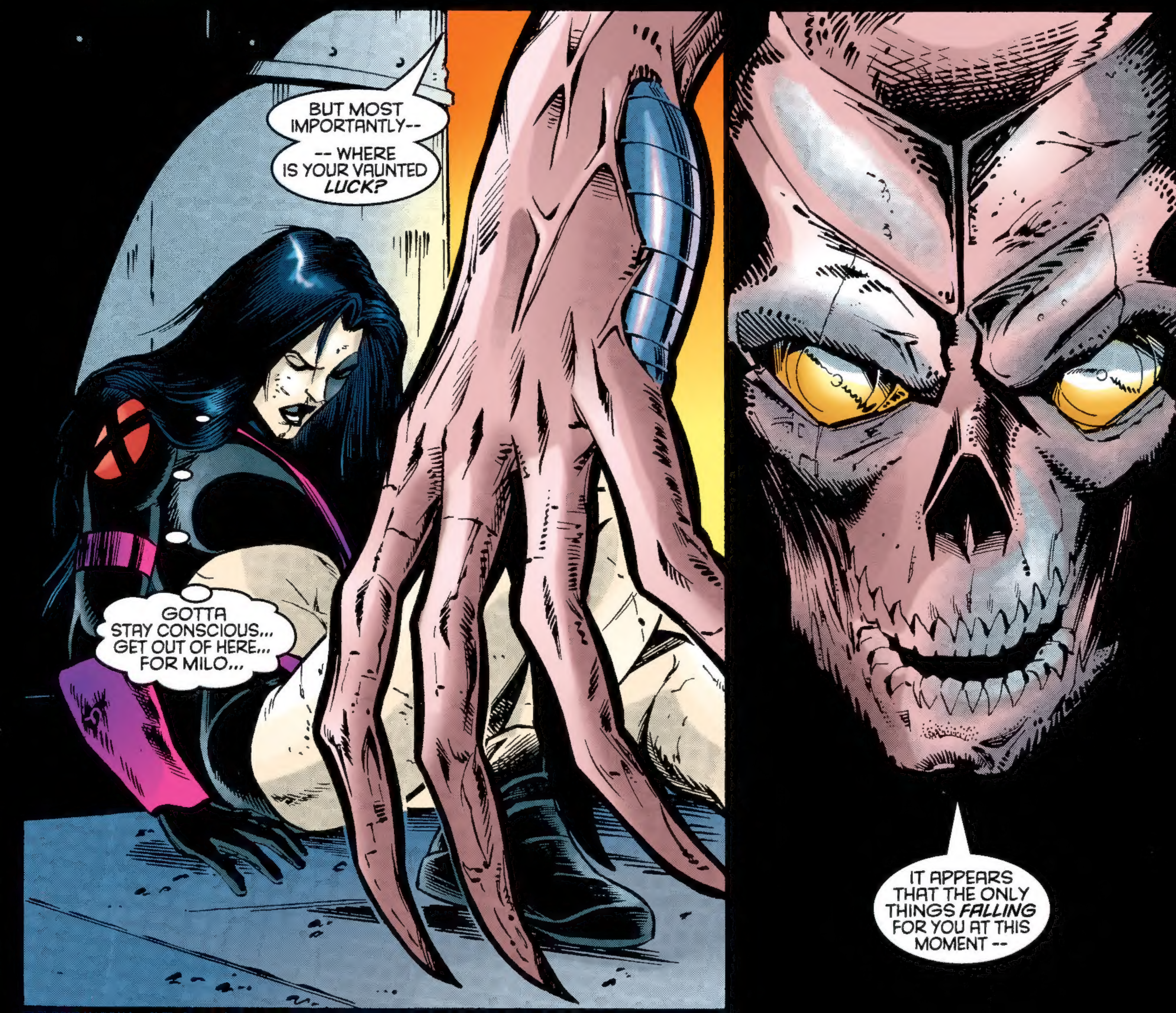
KRACK



WHERE
ARE YOUR CLEVER
WITTICISMS NOW,
MUTANT?

SMACK

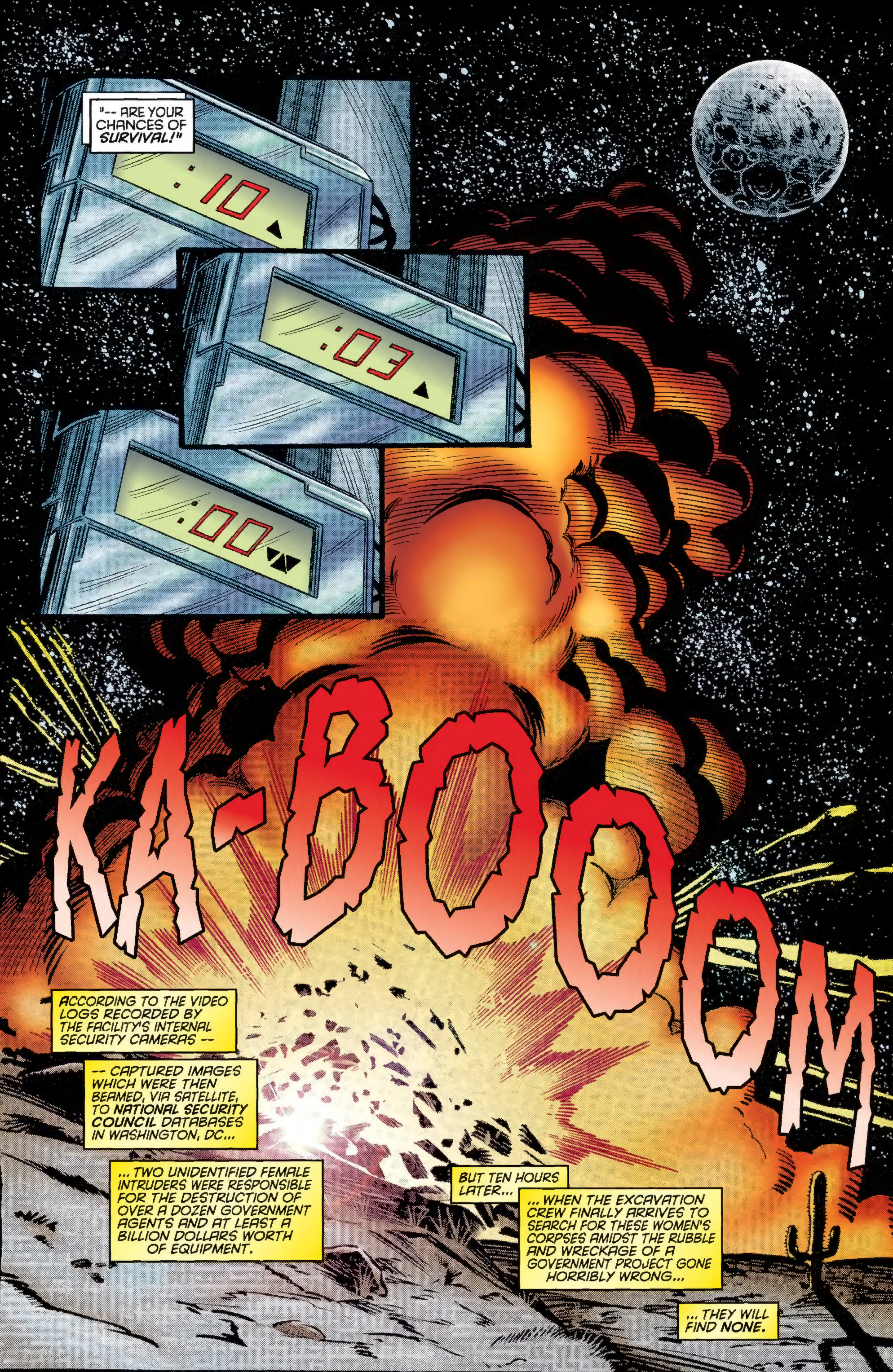
WHERE IS
THE PLAYFUL BANTER,
LAUGHING DEFIANTLY
IN THE FACE OF GRIM
ADVERSITY?



BUT MOST
IMPORTANTLY--
-- WHERE
IS YOUR VAUNTED
LUCK?

GOTTA
STAY CONSCIOUS...
GET OUT OF HERE...
FOR MILO...

IT APPEARS
THAT THE ONLY
THINGS *FALLING*
FOR YOU AT THIS
MOMENT --



"-- ARE YOUR
CHANCES OF
SURVIVAL!"

ACCORDING TO THE VIDEO
LOGS RECORDED BY
THE FACILITY'S INTERNAL
SECURITY CAMERAS --

-- CAPTURED IMAGES
WHICH WERE THEN
BEAMED, VIA SATELLITE,
TO NATIONAL SECURITY
COUNCIL DATABASES
IN WASHINGTON, DC...

... TWO UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE
INTRUDERS WERE RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF
OVER A DOZEN GOVERNMENT
AGENTS AND AT LEAST A
BILLION DOLLARS WORTH
OF EQUIPMENT.

BUT TEN HOURS
LATER...

... WHEN THE EXCAVATION
CREW FINALLY ARRIVES TO
SEARCH FOR THESE WOMEN'S
CORPSES AMIDST THE RUBBLE
AND WRECKAGE OF A
GOVERNMENT PROJECT GONE
HORRIBLY WRONG...

... THEY WILL
FIND NONE.

THE YUKON...
THE NEXT DAY.

OH!!!

SOMEONE
PLEASE TELL ME
I'M DEAD --

-- AND
THAT THIS IS
NOT THE **WEAPON**
X BUNKER...

Ah, BUT
IT IS -- AND YOU
ARE NOT, DEAR
DOMINO.

AND
EVEN THOUGH MY
UNDERLINGS -- **PICO** AND
DEATHSTRIKE -- FAILED
TO DISPATCH YOU TO YOUR
ETERNAL REPOSE AS
I HAD HOPED --

-- REST
ASSURED THAT
DONALD PIERCE
WILL BE HAPPY TO
SEE TO THAT TASK --
PERSONALLY!

Next-Issue

The final Domino falls
as our heroine fights
to save the former
love-of-her-life from
one of the X-Men's
greatest enemies!